(c) whether Government have caused a study of this report to draw out an action plan to resolve the problems of inefficiency and wastage and to unlock the cycle to achieve the targets suggested therein by 2005 A.D.?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Confederation of Indian Industry and Mc Kinsey & Co. have recently conducted a Study of the current prospects for the Indian Food Industry. The Report has not yet been published.

Production of Rabi Crop

728. DR. B.B DUTTA:
SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for the production of current Rabi crop;

(b) whether this target is not likely to be achieved;

(c) if so, the factors responsible for the likely drop in Rabi production; and

(d) how do Government propose to tide over the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The targets set for the production of current rabi crops i.e. 1996-97 are as follows:—

(Million tonnes)

Crops	Targets
Rice	9.50
Wheat	65.00
Coarse Cereals	6.00
Pulses	9.00
Foodgrains	89.50
Oilseeds	9.80

(b) The estimates of production of rabi crops have not yet become due from the States. However, as per the present assessment, the production of rabi foodgrains and oilseeds is likely to be about 88.00 and 9.70 million tonnes respectively which would be close to the targetted level of production for 1996-97.

(c) The likely marginal shortfall in production of rabi crops during 1996-97 is attributed to somewhat less winter rains in the northern and central parts of the country and slow growth in fertilizer consumption. However, much would depend on the weather behaviour likely to prevail in the coming period.

(d) As the production is likely to be close to the targetted level, there is no apprehension of any major shortage of these commodities in the country. However, in the long term perspective to increase the production of rabi crops, the Government is implementing various crop specific development schemes besides providing price and market support to the farmers and making available more fertilizers during 1997-98.

Improve In Quality and Quantity of Agricultural Production

729. SHRI AKHILESH DAS:Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have envisaged any scheme to improve the quality and quantity of agricultural production in the country;

(b) the salient features of the scheme;

(c) whether it is a fact that some agricultural universities are engaged in the research projects with the collaboration of the reputed organisations; and

(d) if so, the details of those projects as well as names of the national and international organisations?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The Government has taken up a number of schemes to assist the States in improving the quality and quantity of agricultural production in the country. A